

Volunteer Opportunities

October 2011

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Compassionate Care Hospice of Nebraska is seeking compassionate, caring active duty military, veterans, or family members to become hospice volunteers. Volunteers provide support to terminally ill patients and their families in our community by offering comfort care, respite care, bereavement, and/or office support. Hospice volunteers, as part of the interdisciplinary team, make an unselfish commitment to be a steady source of comfort and compassion for the families they serve. Volunteers may offer relief for the family, listen and support the patient and family, run errands, and help with office work. Active duty military and veterans offer a special opportunity of camaraderie and understanding to another veteran at end of life. If you are a good listener, able to provide a comforting touch, and want to make a difference in someone's life, this volunteer opportunity is for you. Training and ongoing supervision is provided. Please contact Marcia Blum at 402-333-3149 for more information.

The [Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands](#) needs volunteers for the 10th Annual Buddy Walk to be held on Oct. 15 at the University of Nebraska Campus. Volunteers are needed for set up/tear down, manning food stations, water stations, game booths, walk routes patrol, and various other areas. Volunteers are needed from approximately 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Buddy Walk is the premier advocacy event for Down Syndrome and is the world's most widely recognized public awareness program for the Down Syndrome Community. The alliance is committed to enhancing the lives of families touched by Down syndrome. Interested volunteers should contact [Amy Amua-Sekyi](#) at amy.l.amua-sekyi@usace.army.mil.

[Heartland Hope Mission Food Pantry](#), located at 5218 S. 21st Street in Omaha, is the largest faith-based non-profit food pantry in the state of Nebraska and is a 501c3 organization. Each month over \$100,000 worth of food is distributed to those in need. Last year, over 35,000 people were provided a week's worth of food and hygiene items, and over 23,000 people received clothing or household items. Volunteers are needed to help unload food, pack food boxes, carry boxes out to vehicles, sort clothing, hang clothing, and organize shelves. People are also needed to organize and hold hygiene or clothing drives. There is a special need for volunteers during pantry hours on Tuesdays, 6 - 9 p.m., Thursdays, 1 - 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 1 - 5 p.m. To volunteer, call 402-733-2077, ext 10.

[StandUp for Kids](#) is committed to the help and rescue of homeless and street kids. We do this, every day, in cities across America. We carry out our mission through our volunteers who go to the streets and shelters to find, stabilize, and otherwise help homeless and street kids improve their lives. The Omaha chapter of Standup for Kids is in the process of standing up and needs motivated volunteers for the following leadership positions:

- Director and Co-director of Resource Development - manages the local program's relationship with active and potential community partners that provide services to run-away and homeless youth
- Co-director of Marketing - determines the marketing, communication and public relations needs for the local program
- Co-director of Public Relations - manages the public image of the local program. He/she is also responsible for distributing information about the local program and building relationships with the media to gain exposure in the community.

- Co-director of Program Support - determine and procure food, clothing and hygiene supplies necessary for outreach. He/she will work closely with the Director of Outreach to obtain supplies necessary for outreach
- Co-director of Outreach - determines the outreach needs of the local program. He/she will support and manage qualified and trained outreach counselors that conduct outreach

Numerous other volunteer opportunities are available. For more information, contact [Senior Master Sgt. Edward Huk](#), [Tech. Sgt. Joseph Laughlin](#) or [Staff Sgt. Desiree Laughlin](#).

On-Going Needs

Airmen Against Drunk Driving (AADD). It's all a matter of AADDitude... Available for all military, DoD civilians, and spouses. Our number one goal is saving lives, and you can help. We need drivers and dispatchers for our daily schedule, as well as for special events. By volunteering just one night a year, YOU can make a difference. For more information, contact [Senior Airman Kristy Dates](#), [Staff Sgt. Jason Chiles](#) or [Offutt AADD](#).

Honor Guard: To Honor with Dignity. The Offutt Honor Guard needs Air Force members of all ranks to join this professional organization. To volunteer, call Staff Sgt. David Groff at 402-294-6667.

Offutt 5/6 Network: Take action and lead by example. The 5/6 Network meets the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. in the Peacekeeper Lanes bowling alley in Building D. The purpose of the 5/6 Network is to enhance and maintain the camaraderie, esprit de corps, and prestige of the Noncommissioned Officer, while promoting a spirit of unity and honor among all enlisted members, regardless of branch of service. We offer volunteer opportunities on and off-base, professional development, guest speakers, and networking opportunities for all E-5 and E-6 Team Offutt members. For information about what's on the 5/6 Network horizon, visit our [CoP](#), you can also find us on Facebook at "Offutt Team 56" or contact [Tech. Sgt. Tiara Puro](#) at 402-294-8276 or [Tech. Sgt. Chad Faria](#) at 294-2179

Elite Four (formally the Offutt Airmen's Council): Take action and lead by example. The Elite Four meets the first Wednesday of every month at 2:30 p.m., at the Connection in Whiteman Hall. The Elite Four is an organization focused on the Air Force's future enlisted leaders offering a platform to voice concerns to senior leadership and become actively involved in the community on and off-base. For more information, contact [Airman 1st Class Fredrick Watson](#) or [Senior Airman Lyndsay Roark](#).

The **American Red Cross** is recruiting volunteers to help assist active duty military as well as veterans. Opportunities are available in the Offutt Red Cross Office, Ehrling Bergquist Clinic, Bellevue VA (located at Ehrling Bergquist), Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, as well as the Veterans Administration Medical Center. For more information, call 402-294-5032.

YWCA Omaha is grounded firmly in our own community, with services and programs to meet the needs of women and families. Go to the [website](#) to view a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. The volunteer information is under 'Get Involved.' For more information, contact [Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell](#) at 402-345-6555, ext 231.

Pilots N Paws is a 501c3 charitable organization, who through the help of general aviation volunteers pilots, transport rescue animals by air. The mission of Pilots N Paws is to provide a user-friendly website communication venue between those that rescue, shelter, and foster animals and pilots and plane owners willing to assist with the transportation of these animals. Founded in February 2008, Pilots N Paws continues to make a difference in the lives of innocent animals. Thousands of miles are flown to rescue animals, military working dogs, service dogs, and dog soldiers adopted from war zones to safe havens provided by rescues and families.

Together Pilots N Paws are making a difference and will continue to do so as long as this need exists. To find out how you can help, visit their [website](#).

The **Bellevue Special Olympics Program** is seeking volunteers for the following sports: Athletics "Track-and-Field" (Feb - May), Aquatics "Swimming" (Nov - May), Basketball (Nov - Mar), Bocce (May - Aug), Bowling (Aug - Mar), Equestrian "Horseback Riding" (May - Sep), Flag Football (Aug - Oct), Golf (Mar - May), Power Lifting (Jan - May), and Volleyball (Feb - May). Coaches are needed for Athletics, Basketball, Bowling, Equestrian, Flag-Football, and Volleyball. Experience in the sport, knowledge of the proper techniques, and a desire to safely train athletes to compete is what we're looking for in our coaches. Volunteers at any skill level are always welcome to participate in unified sports (athlete and volunteer compete together), or assist our athletes and coaches in traditional sports (just athletes compete). If interested in becoming a coach or volunteer, and being a positive influence to individuals with intellectual disabilities in your community. To help, contact [Mr. Frank Mack](#) at 402-658-0672 or [Ms. Stacey Gunter](#).

Volunteering at the **Durham Museum** is a rewarding experience. Available volunteer opportunities are: front desk admissions and information center volunteers; gift shop assistants; soda fountain jerks; train car hosts; photo archives assistants; docents; gallery guides; and education volunteers. Contact [Lori Beck](#) at 402-444-5071, ext 538 to volunteer.

The **Omaha Botanical Gardens (Lauritzen Gardens)** has many volunteer opportunities, including admin, marketing, visitor services, special events, tour guide, and library. For more information or to volunteer, contact [Jane Diesen](#) at 402-346-4002 ext 263.

The **Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA)** needs volunteers to help with transportation, respite, companions, housekeeping help, assistance with personal finances, handyman, painting, telephone reassurance, and telephone companions, in addition to yard mowing, leaf raking, snow removal, meal delivery, and moves. Volunteering is flexible—volunteers choose how often they want to volunteer, there is no minimum requirement, and we try to work around their schedules as much as we can. All clients are age 60 and over and find it difficult to get assistance with these needs. If interested, call ENOA at 402-444-6536 and ask for [Karen Kelly](#), coordinator, Senior Help Volunteer Resource Program.

The **Alfonza W. Davis Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.** is looking for members to join the organization. The chapter is an organization chartered on Offutt AFB that not only preserves the history and the legacy of the Tuskegee Experience, but is deeply involved in the development of today's youth. The chapter facilitates and encourages various youth activities involving introductions to aviation, mentoring, and education. The Davis chapter also supports the 99th Pursuit Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP). This unit targets and inspires cadets ages 12 to 18 through aviation activities. For more information, contact [Tech. Sgt. Zhyronn Carter](#) at 402-294-5397.

[Sarpy County Habitat for Humanity](#) needs volunteers to help with this year's projects. Base team organizers from different groups and/or squadrons are needed. If interested in becoming a team organizer, volunteer to help organize Habitat for Humanity fund raising events, or volunteer to serve on a Habitat committee, please contact [Jon Costello](#) at 402-292-6560.

YWCA—Omaha needs volunteers for their 24-hour hotline which is available to victims and families and friends of domestic violence, rape or other sexual assault, and child sexual abuse. The hotline is totally confidential and staffed by volunteers who complete extensive training in all of these crimes. Hotline volunteers can arrange for emergency transportation to shelters and arrange for medical advocates to meet victims at a hospital. Besides training on the crimes served on the hotline, volunteers receive training and practice in active listening and feedback skills and a manual with information on resources and agencies to refer callers to services they need. Volunteers take calls at home or via their cell phones, with calls routed through a hospital

switchboard so their identity is fully protected. Volunteers are asked to select a reoccurring shift on the monthly schedule that is convenient for them. Volunteers are asked to staff the hotline a minimum of 6 - 12 hours a month. Available shifts are either three or six hours. Contact [Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell](#) for additional information at 402-345-6555, ext 231.

YWCA – Omaha is in need of a “Few Good Warriors” to provide periodic assistance with facility maintenance. If you would like to volunteer your service at an agency that is committed to empowering victims and families affected by domestic violence or sexual assault, we anxiously welcome your time and talent. We need men who are available to come in and assist with various building maintenance projects from time to time. It could be as simple as replacing a few light bulbs or watering the grass to moving furniture or painting an office. If you have an hour or two at various times throughout the month that is convenient for you to lend a hand or a strong back to assist a social service agency with manual labor tasks, please contact: [Veronica A. Oxford Jones](#) for additional information at 402-345-6555.

The **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** is a volunteer, non-profit auxiliary of the USAF. Its three missions are to develop cadets, educate Americans on the importance of aviation and space, and perform life-saving humanitarian missions. Youth ages 12-18 may join CAP as cadets and remain cadets until age 21. Through their experiences as CAP cadets, young people develop into responsible citizens and become tomorrow's aerospace leaders. The leadership skills, self-confidence, and discipline cadet's gain through CAP prepares them to achieve whatever goals they set for themselves in life. CAP welcomes adult volunteers to participate. No prior military service or special skills are required--just a desire to work with youth. If you know a 12-18 year old interested in joining CAP or you are interested in becoming an adult volunteer, please contact one of the area units listed below:

99th Pursuit Composite Squadron

Where: 2001 N. 35th St (Wesley House), Omaha

When: Meets at 1000 on Saturdays during the school year

POC: [Frederick Montgomery](#) at 402-661-0492

Omaha Composite Squadron

Where: 8901 S. 154th St (NRD Building-Chalco Hills Reservoir), Omaha

When: Meets at 1900 on Mondays

POC: [Linda Todd](#) at 402-332-3924

Offutt Composite Squadron

Where: Building 404, Offutt AFB

When: Meets at 1830 on Thursdays

POC: [Dave Waite](#) at 402-294-4597

The [**Nebraska Humane Society \(NHS\)**](#) is a private, nonprofit organization with the mission of providing a voice for all animals in our community. NHS has dedicated itself to enriching lives of both animals and people through animal adoptions and advocacy, various community and individual programs, and training opportunities. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at NHS, contact [Sally Zachary](#) at 402-444-7800 ext. 222.

Presbyterian Outreach, Inc., is a non-profit organization that provides services to assist individuals attain a greater level of independence. Following are available opportunities:

- The Respite Connection Service utilizes volunteers who spend 2 - 4 hours a week with a person who is homebound and has a family member as a caregiver. The volunteer provides companionship to the homebound individual while giving the caregiver an opportunity to refresh their energy to continue caring for their loved

one in their home. The volunteer shares their time by reading, looking at photos, or just visiting with the client, but does not provide any medically necessary services.

- The Health and Medical Equipment Loan Program needs delivery drivers to perform the following duties: Pick up and deliver designated items; collect and sort health and medical equipment; keep warehouse area and delivery truck neat and tidy; clean medical equipment. Qualifications needed: must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license; ability to lift 50 - 70 lbs; good customer service skills; reliable and responsible; flexible to changing situation. Normal delivery days are Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information on the above positions, call 402-341-6559, ext. 100.

The **Omaha Children's Museum** has the following volunteer opportunities:

- Administrative Volunteer – assist staff behind the scenes of the museum
- Discovery Guide – work with museum patrons in creating a fun, interactive learning environment
- Guest Services – greet visitors making them feel welcome
- Special Event Programs – assist staff with special event programming

To volunteer, contact [Sara Sherman](#) at 402-930-2353.

Camp Fire USA: Camp Fire USA needs volunteers to help build caring, confident youth, and future leaders. Opportunities are available for volunteers to gain experience working with youth in our curriculum-base programs. We are looking for energetic individuals and groups to help us provide the youth we serve with homework help, skill development, and exposure to positive role models. Camp Fire's after-school programs take place Monday through Friday, 3:30 - 6 p.m., at 14 different Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Westside schools. If you are interested in volunteering at Camp Fire or would like more information about our programs call 402-397-5809 or e-mail [Nick Brotzel](#).

The Open Door Mission's Outreach Center serves 1,400 people a month by providing clothes, household items, furniture, and food boxes. Volunteers are needed to sort, hang, and shelf clothes; sort and box food; and straighten and clean shelves. Kitchen help is needed to prepare meals, serve meals, and clean pantry, coolers, and freezers. The mission provides shelter to 320 men, women, and children every night. Volunteers are needed to read/play games with the children; answer the hotline phone; help in the security booth; and tutor the children or adults in the learning center. To volunteer, call 402-829-1512.

Odyssey HealthCare is a community-based hospice organization dedicated to enabling terminally ill patients to enjoy the highest quality of life possible at home or in a nursing facility where they are cared for by their family members and our interdisciplinary team. Odyssey volunteers are essential to our team because they are dedicated to help make the end of life a time filled with comfort and kindness. With just a few hours per month, you can improve the quality of life for terminally ill patients and their families. Make a difference in someone's life today. Odyssey provides orientation and training free of charge for all volunteers. During orientation, you will have the opportunity to learn more about hospice and the opportunities for volunteering. To volunteer, call the Odyssey Healthcare office at 402-397-0990, and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteers are needed at the [Nebraska Medical Center](#). You can help our patients receive extraordinary care. The Nebraska Medical Center has volunteer opportunities in Emergency, Surgery Waiting Rooms, Child Life, Information Desk, our gift shops and more. For more information, call the Nebraska Medical Center Volunteer Services at 402-559-4197 or visit the [website](#) under the "how you can help" section.

Girl Scouts-Great Plains Council serving girls of Sarpy, Douglas, and northern Cass counties is looking for you to help girls grow strong. Whether you have an hour, a day, a week, or a year, Girl Scouts can use your time and talents. Volunteer opportunities in troops, events, planning, marketing, and more are waiting for you. To

inspire girls with character, confidence, and courage, make the connection and contact [Janelle Arthur](#) at 402-558-8189 ext 212.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal disease that affects more than 30,000 people in the United States. It affects their muscles and rarely their minds. The ALS Association strives to increase public awareness and provide support to those with ALS. If you would like to volunteer with public awareness events and/or visit with families affected by ALS, call Steve Langan, Awareness and Development Coordinator or Melissa Ramming, Patient Services Coordinator at 402-991-8788.

The **Salvation Army** has a variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages. If interested, call 402-898-6000.

The **Child Saving Institute (CSI)** has an urgent need for male mentors for children between the ages of 6-12. The children enjoy a variety of activities from going to the zoo, park, or playing sports. A commitment of 6 months and only 1 hour a week can make a difference in the life of a child. For more information, contact Sherri Harris at CSI 402-553-6000, ext 144.

Immanuel Trinity Village, a senior living community, needs volunteers for the following:

- Weekly assistance (generally Tuesday mornings) with grocery shopping. The residents are transported to various grocery stores, but some need assistance finding items and reading labels. Because the bus is usually too full to haul groceries, volunteers are asked to bring the purchases back to the community. Delivering to the residents' apartments is optional.
- Bingo caller on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m.
- Guest speakers for hobbies, talents, or interests that will bring enjoyment to the residents

To volunteer, call Karen Patterson at 402-614-5500.

Little Brother – Friends of the Elderly is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing friendship to socially isolated elders in our community. A visiting volunteer program matches volunteers with socially isolated elders for visits on a regular basis. Volunteer opportunities are also available for holiday events. To volunteer, contact [Patty Sergent](#) at 402-884-6641.

Your talents are needed by the **Boy Scouts of America**. No prior scouting experience is necessary; all training is provided in a fun, relaxing atmosphere. To volunteer with a Bellevue troop or more information, contact Jay Loutzenhiser at 402-731-0394.

The **Town & Country Humane Society**, 14110 S 84th Street, Papillion NE, is a no-kill, non-profit, all volunteer, pet adoption agency. Volunteers are needed to do general handyman work, such as repairs, carpentry, and painting. Volunteers are also needed for animal care (feeding, grooming and dog walking). The society is open noon - 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday - Sunday. Call the Town & Country Humane Society at 402-339-5355 to volunteer.

The **Bellevue Food Pantry**, located in the Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot, 104 Galvin Road North, needs people to work in the pantry. Daytime, evening, and weekend hours are available. Training is provided. To volunteer, call 402-293-3138.

Camp Wa-kon-da, Mid-America Council, Boy Scouts of America, needs volunteers for various camp projects. Help is needed every weekend, and organized workdays are held the 3d Saturday of each month. Call Mike Johnson at 402-291-4026, in the evening, for more information.

The **Hope Center for Kids** provides nutritionally balanced lunches to 7 – 19 year olds who are at risk for hunger. They serve dinner to approximately 100 kids, 5 days a week. During the school year, the Hope Center for Kids provides an evening meal four days a week to about 100 kids. In addition to feeding children, both sites offer summer and after-school programs that include tutoring, health and nutrition education, recreational sports, art projects, and field trips. The center is located in North Omaha, 2200 N. 20th Street. To volunteer, call Rachelle Turek at 402-342-1110.

The **VA Hospital** needs volunteers for their information desk, assisting in the escort office, the surgery waiting room, medical and administrative departments, computer data entry, and visiting patients on wards. All days and times are available. Call 402-449-0649 for more information.

The **[Fontenelle Nature Association](#)** needs volunteers for administrative projects, garden assistants, visitor services assistants and education and ranger volunteers. Visit their [website](#) to volunteer.

Mentoring Programs

Fairview Elementary School requests volunteers to help with the following after-school program. The Fairview Firebird Club instructs, re-teaches, and reinforces academic, social, and personal needs of the students. Examples are: difficulty in academic areas, deployment of a parent, and social skills. The main purpose is to have volunteers spend time with students building positive relationships as well as encourage social and academic growth. This club meets Tuesdays, 3 - 4:15 p.m. at Fairview Elementary. Contact [Melba Hooker](#) at 402-827-5950 with questions or to volunteer.

Goodwill Industries' Career-Focused Mentoring Program (GoodGuides) is looking for adult mentors. Are you good at what you do? Interested in sharing your career secrets with a teen eager to learn? The overall goal of the Goodwill GoodGuides program is to help youth build career plans and skills and prepare for school completion, post-secondary training, and productive work by providing structured and supportive relationships with trusted adult mentors. The program serves young people ages 14 to 17. GoodGuides mentors are asked to make a 1-year commitment - only 4 hours a month. GoodGuides mentors will receive training and activities to enhance a relationship and career building skills for their youth. Interested in sharing your talents with a young person who wants to learn? Contact [Carly Swotek](#) at 402-522-7232 for details.

[D.R.E.A.M.](#) is nonprofit organization that is passionate about the development of our youth. Through awareness, mentoring, and a mindset of paying it forward, D.R.E.A.M. invites you to join in making a positive impact on the children in our community. For more information, visit their [website](#). To volunteer, contact [Steven Warren](#) at 402-206-4733.

TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program positively impacting the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential. Mentors are volunteers who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the life of a young person. Youth meet 1 hour per week with a caring adult who serves as a mentor, often over lunch. Fort Crook, Peter Sarpy, LeMay, and Leonard Lawrence elementary schools need volunteer TeamMates. Offutt members can become mentors by going through a short application and training process. To volunteer, contact the Lied Activity Center at 402-293-5000 and identify yourself as a volunteer from Offutt.

The **Drug Education for Youth (DEFY)** program is currently looking for mentors and individuals wanting to make a difference in military children ages 9-12 for a fun-filled 8-day camp and once-a-month activities throughout the year. We are currently looking for a health care supervisor, administrative lead, training coordinator, mentor coordinator, and mentors for this amazing program. Any military, dependent or DoD employee may volunteer. This program is completely funded by the U.S. Navy to teach teamwork, leadership,

community involvement and the harmful effects of drugs and is open to all DoD children ages 9-12. For details, contact [Chief Petty Officer Steve Beeman](#) at 402-294-2054, [Tracey Harvey](#) at 402-232-7103 or [Tech. Sgt. Sheniek Wynn](#) at 402-294-7476

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Midlands is in desperate need of more male volunteers and married couples to mentor young boys as a part of their program. Female volunteers are welcome for girls, but the demand is not as high. Volunteering as a Big Brother or Big Sister is a wonderful opportunity to provide a positive role model to kids age 7 - 15. To find out more about the program, e-mail [Big Brothers, Big Sisters](#) or call 402-330-2449 ext. 100.

Mentors needed for Omaha Home for Boys. The Omaha Home for Boys is a residential treatment facility providing boys supervision, structure, and training in life skills. In the 'Success Omaha' mentoring program, adult mentors are matched with suitable young people based on interests and personality. Success Omaha looks for the following in mentors: a strong desire to work with at-risk youth; a willingness to commit to a mentoring relationship for 1 - 2 years; a commitment to at least two individual activities each month and to make at least one telephone contact each week; and completion of the 3-hour New Mentor Training. For details, call Lisa Fisher at 402-642-2999.

The **Wilson Alternative Middle School** in Omaha needs responsible adults in its mentoring program to help at-risk students, age 12 – 15, for one hour per week. Mentors will meet with their student partners and follow a preset curriculum. Call Judi Crick at 402-733-1785 for information.

Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 294-4329 for information on the volunteer opportunities.